



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,449	12/31/2003	Michael John O'Connor	920.001	9814
32123	7590	03/16/2006	EXAMINER	
GEHRKE & ASSOCIATES, S.C. 123 N. 86th ST WAUWATOSA, WI 53226			PATTERSON, MARIE D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3728	

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/749,449	O'CONNOR, MICHAEL JOHN	
	Examiner Marie Patterson	Art Unit 3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 21-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/5/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 21-23, 25, 27-29, 31, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fuerst (5465509).

Fuerst shows a shoe with a heel protector (162, which is considered to be “semirigid” inasmuch as applicant has claimed and defined such) with eyelets (see figures 7 and 8) which inherently would have a lace (as is inherent and conventional) laced therethrough, the heel protector is permanently secured to the shell (110) with stitches (as shown in figures 7 and 8) and the bottom edge is adhesively secured to a welt (152) as claimed.

3. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasternak (4670998).

Pasternak shows a shoe with a heel protector (17 and 20), with side portions (23) as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuerst in view of Crowley (4776111).

Fuerst shows a shoe substantially as claimed except for inarguendo the apertures in the end portion of the sides of the heel protector corresponding to eyelets. Crowley clearly shows and teaches corresponding apertures (32) at the end of the sides of a heel protector with eyelets (27) in a shell. It would have been obvious (if not inherent from the Fuerst reference alone) in view of the clear teaching of Crowley to correspond the apertures in the heel protector with eyelets in the shell in the shoe of Fuerst to allow the user to easily tighten the heel protector at the same time as the shell.

6. Claims 24 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuerst or Fuerst as modified above in view of either Bradley (Des 192208) or Gazzano (5408761).

Fuerst or Fuerst as modified above shows a shoe with a heel protector substantially as claimed except for ridges. Either Bradley or Gazzano teaches providing ridges on a heel protector. It would have been obvious to provide ridges as taught by Bradley or Gazzano in the shoe of Fuerst or Fuerst as modified above to increase strength, flexibility, etc..

7. Claims 25, 26, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuerst or Fuerst as modified above in view of Belyea (2083938).

Fuerst or Fuerst as modified above shows a shoe substantially as claimed except for the exact connection of the heel protector to the shoe sole. Belyea teaches the well known and conventional alternative style of manufacture using a welt (22) and stitches

Art Unit: 3728

(20) which pass through heel protector element (24), and sole elements. It would have been obvious to use welt construction as taught by Belyea and as is well known in the art of footwear in the shoe of Fuerst or Fuerst as modified above to allow the shoe to be made using welt construction, for fashion desiring welt look, etc..

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3728

1. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (572)272-8300 (**FORMAL FAXES ONLY**). Please identify Examiner Marie Patterson of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Marie Patterson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4559. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM Mon-Wed.



Marie Patterson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728